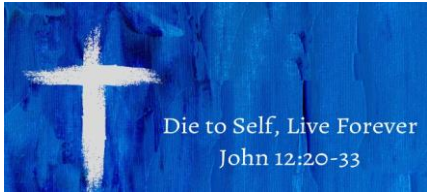


Fifth Sunday Of Lent



From the Pastor's Desk: SEEKING THE KINGDOM OF GOD THIS MONTH: Archbishop Leo's pastoral letter offers this third monthly suggestion for abiding in the Kingdom of God:

"Place the Eucharistic Christ at the centre of our life of faith, of our Sunday worship, our entire Christian life and the daily living out of our particular vocation."

Archbishop Leo writes, "it is consoling to think of the many celebrations of the holy Eucharist, the 'sacrament of love' as the Angelic Doctor [St. Thomas Aquinas] phrases it, that are offered up daily – as the holy Mass is the source and summit of our Christian life and I would add the centre as well." As we ponder Archbishop Leo's words, it is striking to think that our Sunday Mass at St. John's and every daily Mass as well, is part of an enormous picture of the people of God at prayer. We are joined to one another in faith at every Mass, and are sent forth with the power to be an effective agent for change in the world. Not just any change or just a political or social force, but we are enabled to be God's hand and feet in a world that needs God's presence more than ever. And we should, again and again, realize that this transformation that we undergo at Mass is through nothing less than the Body and Blood of Christ given to us in Holy Communion at the apex of the celebration. To "place the Eucharistic Christ at the centre of our faith" is to pray earnestly that God will never, ever, let us lose sight of how precious Holy Communion is; that we might crave – yes, hunger and yearn for – communion in Christ's Body and Blood; and that we will come to see with clear vision that this sacred food is the "source and summit of our Christian life." We can do nothing without God; with him we can be everything that we are meant to be. And all this is because we have the awesome privilege of feeding on the divine Body and Blood of the Son of God as we worship him. Who could possibly willingly stay away from this awesome encounter?

.....Fr. John-Mark

COMMUNION REFLECTION: We sometimes seek Jesus with the thought in mind that once we are with Him life would be blissful already. We seek Jesus because we think that the moment we are with Him there would be no more problems and difficulties to overcome. We seek Jesus because we think that He is the panacea for our personal and emotional difficulties. A life with Jesus is never easy, We must be ready to throw away our worldly lives in order to have eternal life with Him. Just as he died on the cross for us, it is only through Him that we will discover the true meaning of our life.

Please Pray For The Sick

Marilyn McGregor, Catherine Chang, Paul Proctor, Christina Jopling, John Rao, Nancy Smith, Rosanne Nihtila, Margaret Ryan, Michael Higgins, Richard Bowman, Chiu Wong, Cathy Connor, Gillian Haughey, Isabel Cairns, Marianne Loranger, Christine Curran, Jack Lees, Jacob McLean, Carmel Richard

WHY ARE THE STATUES AND CROSSES VEILED?

The practice of veiling statues in the church alerts us that something is different, it can be startling at first, but the last two weeks of Lent are a time of immediate preparation for the celebration of the Sacred Triduum. The veils are hard to miss and they serve as a reminder to get ready!

The veiled images build within us a longing for Easter Sunday. The veils seem out of place, and even counterintuitive. It can seem strange that the crucifix is covered up during Passiontide. Through this absence of images, our senses are heightened and we become more aware of what is missing. We encourage you to do the same at home, start a new tradition.

When images are unveiled before the Easter Vigil, we are reminded that we, in a sense, live in a veiled world. It is through our own death that we are able to see our true home, and the veil is lifted. Christ lifts the veil through His Resurrection.

Lent & Easter Schedule

Stations of the Cross - Fridays of Lent - 4:30 pm

Confessions

Saturdays - 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm

Wednesday, March 20th

8:45 am to 9:15 am, 11:45 am to 12:30 pm, 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

Palm Sunday Masses

Saturday, March 23rd - 4:30 pm - Vigil Mass

Sunday, March 24th - 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Holy Thursday - March 28th

8:15 am - No Mass

7:00 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper & Eucharistic Adoration

Good Friday - March 29th

8:15 am - No Mass

12 noon & 3:00 pm - Liturgy of the Word - Communion Rite

7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday - March 30th - 8:30 pm - Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday Masses - March 31st - 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Easter Monday - April 1st - 9am

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, March 19th

For + FILOMENA POWER

Requested by The Power Family

Wednesday, March 20th

For INTENTIONS OF ST. JOHN'S ROSARY GROUP

Requested by Catherine Chang

Thursday, March 21st

For + STUART MICHIELI

Requested by Kathy, Katie & Michael

Friday, March 22nd

For INTENTIONS OF DEBORAH MCNORGAN

Requested by Parish Family

Rest in Peace

In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of

Jeanette Doherty Pilson & Oliver Marar



In The News


SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS - CATHOLIC

CHARITIES: is now accepting applications for our full array of Scholarships and nominations for our Community Service Awards. With five newly created scholarships, including the Cardinal Thomas Collins Palliative Care & Gerontology Studies Scholarship and the establishment of the Michael Fullan Community Service Awards, we can't wait to be able to support more students aspiring to further their education and recognize the unsung community heroes in our midst. More details on all scholarships and awards, including the eligibility criteria, can be found on our website. Submission deadline for all scholarships and awards is April 30, 2024. www.ccat.ca/scholarships-and-awards/

NEW BEGINNINGS: Online Drop-In Bereavement Support Session March 27, @ 7:00 pm. New Beginnings is part of Catholic Family Services of Toronto. 416. 921.1163. Register at: <https://nbbd0324.eventbrite.ca>.

AID TO WOMEN. For over 35 years, Aid to Women has operated as a Christian, volunteer-based charity that offers pro-life options and practical help to pregnant women, enabling them to choose life for their unborn children. We provide counseling, material items, emotional, spiritual, and financial support for mothers in need. We are currently in need of people to pray, volunteer, help financially, or offer material donations (infant car seats, strollers, diapers, wipes, and clothes (newborn to 2 years). Donations can be made online at www.aidtowomen.ca For more information or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at 416.921.6016 or at info@aidtowomen.ca.

TENEBRAE SERVICE: Join us on Friday, March 22 at 7:30 pm, to experience the embracing service, sung by the St. Michael's Choir School Alumni Choir and set to music composed by the school's founder Msgr. John Edward Ronan at St. Paul's Basilica for our Tenebrae Service. With a dimly lit church, a rarely seen candle holder, and somber tones, "Tenebrae" (Latin meaning 'darkness' or 'shadows') is a unique and special service, adapted from 9th century medieval Roman Catholic practices, marking the days of Holy Week with readings, music and candles extinguished one by one. This is a solemn liturgical service, open and free to all. However a free will donation will be gratefully accepted.

 God our Father, you generously grant us all the gifts we have. Help us to understand that it is in the giving that we receive. Thank you for making a gift to your Parish. Don't walk with cash? Scan the QR code and it will take you to our DONATE page where you can use your credit card.



	2023	2024
Sunday Offertory	\$ 3,100	\$ 3,125
Offertory PAG:	\$ 1,421	\$ 1,426.
Building Fund	\$ NA	\$ 1,945

Please remember the Poor Box as you exit the church



Parish News

"Jesus in the confessional is not a dry cleaner: it is an encounter with Jesus, who waits for us just as we are. Is going to confession like a torture session? No! It is going to praise God, because I, a sinner, have been saved by Him. And he waits with tenderness to forgive me. And if tomorrow I do the same? Go again. He always waits for us." - Pope Francis.



Each parish in the Archdiocese of Toronto will be holding a Day of Confessions. Confessions at our parish will be available on **March 20th**
8:45 to 9:15 am, 11:45 am to 12:30 pm & 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

ShareLife This weekend is ShareLife Sunday. ShareLife Sunday marks the first collection for our parish's annual campaign.

Every day, young people in our community need a helping hand due to homelessness, trafficking, or violence. ShareLife agencies ensure the safety of youth fleeing violent homes and provide them a supportive place to stay. This is all made possible thanks to amazing people like you who choose to support ShareLife. We thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Our parish goal this year is 79,500. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

RETURN BLESSED PALMS: Reminder to bring your blessed palms from last year to Mass. There will be a basket in the vestibule for you to leave them in. The blessed Palms will be burnt in time for next year's Ash Wednesday.

IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS? How does God Guide us? What does the Holy Spirit do? Beginning after Easter, St John's will offer the Alpha Program. Alpha is a 12 week program, where we meet weekly to break bread, watch a video on the question of the week, and have some open discussion. Contact Deacon Paul – 416.606.7285 for details. Space is limited. God is love!!! dp

50/50 RAFFLE: Get your tickets for The Knights of Columbus 50/50 raffle lottery in support of the charitable works of the Knights of Columbus of Ontario. Tickets are just 10 tickets for \$10.00/ 40 tickets for \$20.00 / 125 tickets for \$50.00 or 300 tickets for \$100. Draw April 28th. For tickets follow the link: <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/k-of-c-ont/194>

40 CANS FOR LENT: Continues. Donate 1 can a day for 40 days during the Lenten season. Or substitute \$1 for each can. Drop off your non-perishable food donation in the special 40 Cans for Lent baskets in the vestibule. Monetary donations placed in an envelope, marked "40 Cans For Lent", and dropped in the collection basket.

Little Levity: Three friends from the local parish were asked by Fr. Clancy, "When you're in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say? Mick said: "I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man." Pat commented: "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in people's lives." Sean said: "I'd like them to say, 'Look, he's moving!'"
Peace begins with a smile.....Mother Teresa